

COUNTRY Approved For Release 2001/03/17 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000200160001-1

TOPIC Arsenal in Sibiu and Ammunition Factory in Avrig 25X1A

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EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 29 December 1952

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. About December 1948 or January 1949, the official designation for the arsenal in Sibiu (R 35/R 20) which had been Arsenalul Sibiu and, in that form, was also given on signposts, was changed into JIS-Interprindere Metalurgica Sibiu. Up to this time, the arsenal was under military administration. Its last commanding officer was Colonel Jonescu. Then a civil administration was assigned. In early January 1951, a certain Vanatorul, about 35 years old, who previously had worked in the arsenal as a fitter, was manager of the enterprise which, as it was placed under civilian administration belonged to a metal combine with its headquarters in Bucharest. The football team of the arsenal was named Metallul Sibiu in January 1951 and was a sister team of the Metallul Bucharest and other Metallul teams in Rumania, e.g. Metallul Resita. During a shop meeting in December 1949, the manager of the enterprise said that the arsenal would again be taken over by the army and renamed into CFA Centrul Fortelor Armate in mid-February or early March 1951. The entire personnel would remain in the arsenal under the new military management with the exception of workmen who would be transferred to Avrig (R 35/W 49). In late 1950, the employees of the arsenal were convinced that the installation would soon be taken over by the army. At that time, Rumanian officers were repeatedly seen inspecting the arsenal. In early January 1951, machine tools, especially lathes, were dismantled and trucked to the ammunition factory in Avrig. The operators for these machine tools also left the arsenal. Employees of the arsenal told that other machinery would also be sent to Avrig because that installation was better camouflaged and more important items could be produced there. They stated that the arsenal in Sibiu and the ammunition factory in Avrig would coordinate their production in the future.

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2. The buildings and installations of the arsenal were erected before the last war and were not damaged during the war. New buildings of larger size were not observed. Source who himself did not work in the arsenal, remembered buildings and departments including a brickwork store house with gabled roof close to the entrance at the main street, used to store the ready-made articles of the arsenal which were picked up at this building. Another warehouse on the other side of the entrance stored raw materials and quartered guard personnel and the fire-brigade. A multi-story office building was behind the entrance. It had a flat concrete roof over the engineering department, the sales department, the bookkeeping office and similar offices. A warehouse was at the southern edge of the installation and stored raw material like sections, plates and gratings. There was a motor vehicle shed with repair shop for the motor vehicles of the arsenal. The factory in the center of the arsenal had its own office department, lathe operators and locksmiths shops, foundry and joiners shop. An optical shop was in the upper story of the office department. The building of the lathe operators and locksmith's shops also served as an assembly plant. A heat treating plant was in the foundry premises. Except the joiner's shop which was built of concrete, all parts of the factory building were of brick. The canteen building which also housed an apprentice workshop was at the northern edge of the arsenal.
3. Press plates indicated that the machines in the lathe operator's and locksmith's shops were of German origin. Source remembered 20 to 25 lathes, 10 to 15 milling machines and a number of drilling and grinding machines. Three or four melting furnaces made of brickstones were in the foundry.
4. The arsenal had 4 to 5 trucks and 1 sedan. It had no railroad connection. The personnel totaled 1,400 to 1,600 employees including about 8 to 10 percent women and consisted mainly of Rumanians, but also Germans and Hungarians.
5. The arsenal repaired, overhauled and painted arms. Source saw machine guns, mortars, AA guns, artillery guns of various calibers with long and short barrels, but no rifles or pistols. On one occasion, 1 or 2 guns on track-laying carriages stood in the factory yard. No tanks were observed. The arsenal has also produced household furniture and tools in addition to repairing arms since the end of the war. The quantity of arms under repair varied. Often the yard was full with arms while, some times, it was almost empty or completely empty. Arms shipped to the railroad station were accepted there by the Rumanian army.
6. The arsenal which had a wooden fence and five watchtowers, was guarded by civilians wearing dark gray uniformlike suits and service caps.
7. The ammunition factory in Avrig which had been founded before the last war was situated about 200 meters south of the road from Bradul (R 35/139) to Avrig immediately before Avrig, in open terrain and was bordered by wooded country on the rear side and the side opposite the town. Source repeatedly saw building activity at the ammunition factory which appeared to him as being enlarged in the direction of the wooded area.

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8. In the spring of 1951, source had the opportunity of seeing the equipment of the joiner's shop in the Sibiu arsenal which consisted of modern wood-finishing machinery. A suction plant for chips with a plate tube of 40 cm in diameter leading to a tower which stood nearly in the center of the arsenal could be seen from a distance. In the spring of 1951, source observed that ammunition boxes with tubes for three or more shells or cartridge cases were manufactured. He estimated the personnel of the factory at 1,500 to 2,000 persons.¹

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1. Comment. This information supplements previous information. It is not known whether the arsenal now is under civilian or military administration.

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